

COUNTY OF LINCOLN

New Mexico Special Meeting Board of County Commissioners

Preston Stone, Chair
Dallas Draper, Vice Chair

Thomas F. Stewart, Member
Elaine Allen, Member
Lynn Willard, Member

Minutes Monday, May 02, 2016

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lincoln County Commission held at 8:30 A.M. on May 02, 2016 in the County Commission Chambers, Lincoln County Courthouse, in Carrizozo, New Mexico.

1. Call to Order

Chair Stone called the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to order at 8:30 AM.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call.

Present: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Others present included Nita Taylor, County Manager; Alan Morel, County Attorney; and Whitney Whittaker, Chief Deputy Clerk.

3. Invocation

The invocation was presented by Commissioner Draper.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Pledge – US Flag
- b. Salute – NM Flag

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Acceptance of the Agenda and authorized the Chair to move items, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 5).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Chair Stone Recessed the Regular Meeting and convened the Public Hearing at 8:31 AM.

6. Public Hearing to consider the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2016-2017

A. County Manager's Overview

Nita Taylor, Manager provided an overview of the timeline of events associated with the annual budget preparation. Ms. Taylor acknowledged the work of Punkin Schlarb, Finance Director; Beverly Calaway, Treasurer; and Sherri Huddleston, Chief Deputy Treasurer during budget preparation.

Ms. Taylor stated the conservative budget as presented resulted in a revenue base of \$4,521,661 over the required reserve of \$1,839,428 or 3/12 of total General Fund expenditures of \$7,357,713.

Ms. Taylor discussed major transfers from the General Fund to cover departmental expenses including; \$2,964,291 for Detention Center operations; \$1,815,881 for Road Department operations; and \$295,514 for Senior Citizen Centers.

Ms. Taylor provided a history of property valuations beginning in 2004 and noted the increase in valuation from \$1,167,217,167 in 2014 to \$1,198,390,624 in 2015. Ms. Taylor stated Lincoln County's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) was received in June in the amount of \$1,562,805. Ms. Taylor stated based on a forecasted estimated increase of 8.5%, PILT revenue was estimated at \$1,695,122 for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget.

Ms. Taylor presented a summary of funding requests from external agencies totaling \$ 384,497. Ms. Taylor cautioned approval of external agency requests would result in an increase of the amount of required reserves and a decrease in the amount of funds remaining over required reserves for Lincoln County operations.

Ms. Taylor reminded clinic and hospital budget requests were funded solely from the Property Tax Mill Levy currently imposed at the rate of 2.0 mills for Lincoln County Medical Center with a project revenue of \$2,198,741 and .6 mill for clinics with a projected revenue of \$654,334.

Ms. Taylor noted additional departmental requests not included in the preliminary budget were typically for capital improvements or one-time requests. Ms. Taylor presented a detailed list of requests from the Sheriff's Department, the Road Department, and the Manager's Department. Ms. Taylor stated the Manager's request included a request for a salary increase for elected officials and a Cost of Living Adjustment for classified employees. Ms. Taylor again reminded approval of these requests would decrease total funds remaining over the required reserves.

Ms. Taylor reminded the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) mandated the use of the 2015 Property Tax Valuations for the development of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget. Ms. Taylor stated DFA guidelines recommend general fund expenses and transfers to other funds not exceed 5% over current year budgeted revenues.

Ms. Taylor stated as in past years expenditures were unconstrained and projected revenues were conservative.

Commissioner Stewart suggested elected officials and the public think of the County budget in terms of a "home budget" defined by savings, income, and expenses. Commissioner Stewart discussed the budget in past years and noted in Fiscal Year 2013-2014 the County budget reflected \$1.5 million in expenditures over revenues and therefore savings and reserves declined in the next year. Commissioner Stewart stated in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1.6 million and in the current Fiscal Year 2015-2016 expenditures may exceed revenues by \$1.4 million with savings continuing to decline. Commissioner Stewart cautioned approval of all external agency and departmental requests would result in a budget where expenditures would exceed revenues by \$1.9 million. Commissioner Stewart cautioned against continuing this pattern and spending down reserves.

B. External Agency Presentations and Requests

Ms. Taylor presented a summary of external requests including history of prior funding awarded and comparison analysis of current request. Agency requests were presented as follows:

NMSU Extension Office	\$ 72,951
Request presented by Marsha Palmer, Lincoln County Extension Director	
Capitan Library	\$ 15,000
Request presented by Pat Garrett, Director	
Corona Library	\$ 5,000
Request Presented by Village of Corona Mayor Bill Hignight	
Ruidoso Library	\$ 30,000
Request presented by Cory Bard, Director	
Juvenile Justice Board (LCJJB)	\$ 12,000
Request presented by Ted Allen, Coordinator	
SNMEDD	\$ 7,000
Request presented by Hubert Quintana, Executive Director	
USDA Predator Control/Wildlife	\$ 94,500
Request presented by Jeremy Flack, Wildlife Services	
Noxious Weed Program	\$ 60,000
Request presented by Laura Johnson, Program Director Upper Hondo Soil and Water Conservation District	
South Central Mountain RC and D	\$ 40,000
Request presented by Laura Doth, Executive Director and Rick Merrick, Rural Forrester.	
Lincoln County Humane Society	\$ 30,000 + \$1,000

Request presented by Judith Gouch Passmore, President Board of Directors and Able Guzman, Manager

Eco Servants \$ 25,000

Request presented by Stephen Carter, Executive Director

New Mexico Bookmobile \$ 1,260

Request presented by Ms. Taylor on behalf of New Mexico State Library

Coalition of Arizona/NM Counties \$ 7,600

Request presented by Ms. Taylor on behalf of Howard Hutchinson, Executive Director.

Ms. Taylor noted the request was for \$2,600 in annual dues and \$5000 for legal fees.

Boys & Girls Club of Sierra Blanca \$ 10,000

Request presented by Tim Coughlin, Executive Director

Miracle's Paws for Pets \$ 1,500

Request presented by Barbara Culler, President

City of Ruidoso Downs \$ 34,500

Request presented by City of Ruidoso Downs Mayor Gary Williams for the Lincoln

County Transit Program

White Mountain Search and Rescue \$ 1,000 (General Fund)

Request presented by Tony Davis, President

**C. 10:10 a.m.: Medical Related Budget: Lincoln County Medical Center/Clinics/
La Casa Buena Salud**

Manager Taylor provided detail regarding Lincoln County Medical Center's (LCMC) request for hospital funds in the amount of \$2,109,850 and noted the request was \$227,150 less than last year's request. Ms. Taylor detailed the request as follows:

Lincoln County Medical Center	
Hospital Capital Request	\$ 74,000
Emergency Medical Services	\$ 375,000
Community Assistance Program	\$ 110,000
Hospital Operations	\$1,550,000
Total Request	\$2,109,850

Ms. Taylor noted other expenses funded from mill levy revenues included:

Safety Net Care Pool Obligation	\$ 414,226
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Ms. Taylor anticipated the Mill Levy as currently imposed for the hospital would generate revenues in the amount of \$2,198,741. Ms. Taylor stated approval of the hospital requests as presented in addition to the Safety Net Care Pool obligation would result in expenditure of \$325,335 over revenues.

Ms. Taylor detailed the funding requests from Lincoln County Medical Center and La Casa Buena Salud as follows:

LCMC Rural Clinics	
Corona Clinic – Operations	\$ 25,000
Carrizozo Clinic – Operations	\$ 374,000
Carrizozo Clinic – Capital Request	\$ 94,760
Capitan Clinic – Operations	\$ 100,000
Total Request	\$ 594,000

La Casa Bueno Salud – Hondo Clinic	\$ 139,000
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Ms. Taylor anticipated the Mill Levy as currently imposed for the clinics would generate revenues in the amount of \$ 656,334. Ms. Taylor stated approval of the clinic requests as presented would result in expenditure of \$ 79,596 over revenues.

Troy Clark, Interim LCMC Administrator provided highlights of services provided and other information in support of LCMC's request.

Serefino Montona, Chief Executive Officer for La Casa discussed the request for operational funding of the Hondo Clinic. Mr. Montona discussed the closure of the clinic last fall due to the lack of a health care provider for the clinic.

Commissioner Willard questioned the date of termination of services and whether the Hondo Clinic received payments after services were terminated.

Mr. Montona reminded the County's agreement with La Casa was for the provision of part time services and noted during the period the clinic was open services were provided on a full time basis

Chair Stone questioned Mr. Clark regarding the current four day work week at the Capitan Clinic and questioned if Presbyterian planned to expand operations to five days a week.

Mr. Clark stated belief the capacity reports indicated volumes were building but stated currently there was not sufficient patient capacity to warrant operation five days a week.

Chair Stone expressed belief the construction of the facility by Lincoln County and the financial support of the voter approved mill levy justified full time operations.

Commissioner Stewart commented on the shortfall of requests over mill levy revenues and suggested reduction of operational requests by this amount.

Manager Taylor suggested LCMC provide additional information prior to final budget approval of the hospital's request.

Marvin Martin, Superintendent of Hondo Schools expressed support for the La Casa Hondo Clinic but also supported greater accountability for funds expended during the closure.

Chair Stone recessed the Public Hearing at 12:03 PM and reconvened the Public Hearing at 12:59 PM.

D. Detailed Department Review

Ms. Taylor informed departmental budgeting sessions were held with Elected Officials, Department Heads, and the Volunteer Fire Chiefs. Ms. Taylor stated due to federal and state budget cuts the Zia Senior Center budget would require additional review.

Renee Montes, Senior Services Director discussed the department's budget shortfall resulting from reduced state and federal agency funding. Ms. Montes stated she had identified and reduced operational budget requests in the amount of \$92,000 without reducing current services but noted a shortfall of \$58,071 remained. Ms. Montes identified options to cover the additional shortfall including the option to reduce three full time positions to part time positions. Ms. Montes also discussed an option to reduce the hours of service in Hondo and Corona by two hours daily.

There was general discussion regarding the impact of reducing staff and operational hours for Senior Centers.

E. Unfunded Optional Requirements

Ms. Taylor presented detailed departmental requests from the Sheriff's Department, the Road Department, and the Manager's department. Ms. Taylor discussed the proposed increase in compensation for Elected Officials. Ms. Taylor reminded the statutory limits for County Elected Official compensation increased in 2013 with Lincoln County approving a 10% increase in 2015. Ms. Taylor explained the requested increase to the maximum statutory limit would apply only to newly elected officials. Ms. Taylor discussed the reoccurring cost associated with the proposed Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all classified employees.

Robert Shepperd, Sherriff discussed the Sherriff's Departments requests for four new vehicles and replacement software for the current "Sleuth System" totaling \$353,700.

Joel Bonnell, Road Superintendent discussed Road Department equipment requests including three pickups, a Culvert Jetter, three dump trucks, and a transport truck totaling \$811,500.

Ms. Taylor discussed the Manager's Departmental requests for a tommy lift, a new pickup for Rural Addressing, window replacements in the Clerk and Treasurer's offices, and parking lot repair for the County owned New Horizons property totaling \$75,144.

F. Manager's Recommendations

Ms. Taylor recommended the Board of County Commissioners consider and take action on all external agency requests bearing in mind some of the requests more broadly benefited Lincoln County than others.

Ms. Taylor provided recommendations for the allocation of Hospital Mill Levy funds but suggested extending consideration of LCMC's request for \$1,550,000 in operational funds until the June Regular Meeting. Ms. Taylor stated LCMC agreed to provide additional details regarding their budget request prior to the June meeting.

Ms. Taylor discussed the Mill Levy Clinic funding requests and reminded the requests as presented exceeded the total annual Mill Levy Clinic revenue of \$654,334.

Ms. Taylor recommended approval of some level of capital funding for each department's optional requests in addition to consideration of a salary increase for elected officials and a 3% COLA increase for classified employees.

Chair Stone adjourned the Public Hearing and convened the Regular Meeting at 2:32:28 PM.

7. Board of County Commissioner's Preliminary Budget Guidance

There was a general discussion regarding the allocation of funding for optional departmental requests. After discussion of the Department of Finance and Administration's guideline to limit transfers from the General Fund to less than 5% of revenues there was general agreement to limit budget approval of capital requests during the Preliminary Budget process and to reconsider unfunded requests after final determination of beginning cash balances.

Motion: Authorize expenditure of \$228,000 for the Sheriff's Department purchase of two vehicles and software upgrade, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Chair Stone.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 5).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Motion: Authorize expenditure of \$336,000 for the Road Department's purchase of two pickups, a culvert jetter and one dump truck, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Stewart.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 5).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Motion: Authorize expenditure of \$53,000 for the Manager's Office window replacements and one pickup, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Draper.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 5).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Motion: Approve a 2% COLA increase for classified employees, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Allen.

Motion failed for lack of second.

Motion: Approve a 3% COLA increase for classified employees, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chair Stone, **Seconded by** Commissioner Draper.

Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3, No = 2, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

No: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen.

Motion: Approve 15% increase for incoming elected officials, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Draper, **Seconded by** Chair Stone.

Commissioner Draper clarified his intention was not to support a raise for his position as a Commissioner but rather to support the other elected officials in Lincoln County.

Vote: Motion failed (summary: Yes = 2, No = 3, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Draper.

No: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Willard.

a. External Agency Requests

NMSU Extension Office

\$ 72,951

Motion: Award NMSU Extension Office \$72,951, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Draper.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 5).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Capitan Library

\$ 15,000

Motion: Award Capitan Library \$15,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Allen, **Motion Failed** for lack of second.

Motion: Award Capitan Library \$5,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Draper, **Seconded by** Chair Stone.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 3, No = 2, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

No: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen.

Corona Library

\$ 5,000

Motion: Award Corona Library \$3,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Draper.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 3, No = 2, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

No: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen.

Ruidoso Library

\$ 30,000

Motion: Award Ruidoso Library \$15,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Draper, **Seconded by** Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 4, No = 1, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

No: Commissioner Stewart.

Juvenile Justice Board (LCJJB)

\$ 12,000

Ms. Taylor reminded this year's request included \$2,500 to cover the cost of required insurance.

Motion: Award Juvenile Justice Board \$10,500, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Allen, **Seconded by** Commissioner Draper.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 3, No = 2, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper.

No: Chair Stone, Commissioner Willard.

SNMEDD

\$ 7,000

Motion: Award SNMEDD \$7000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Commissioner Draper reminded he served as a board member for SNMEDD and as such had voted to approve the increase in dues.

Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4, No = 1, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

No: Chair Stone.

USDA Predator Control/Wildlife

\$ 94,500

Motion: Award USDA Predator Control \$32,556 for Lincoln County match, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chair Stone, **Seconded by** Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 5).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Noxious Weed Program

\$ 60,000

Motion: Award the Lincoln County Cooperative Weed Management Program \$50,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Draper, **Seconded by** Chair Stone.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 4, No = 1, Abstain = 0).
Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.
No: Commissioner Stewart.

South Central Mountain RC and D

\$ 40,000

Motion: Award South Central Mountain RC and D \$40,000 expending all Title III funds prior to General Fund appropriation, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Draper.

Vote: Motion failed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 2, No = 3, Abstain = 0).
Yes: Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.
No: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen.

Motion: Award South Central Mountain RC and D \$25,000 with expenditure of all Title III funds prior to General Fund appropriation, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Chair Stone.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 3, No = 2, Abstain = 0).
Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen.
No: Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Lincoln County Humane Society

\$ 30,000 + \$1,000

Motion: Award Lincoln County Humane Society \$25,000 plus \$1,000 additional request, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 0, No = 5, Abstain = 0).
Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Eco Servants

\$ 25,000

Motion: Award Eco Servants \$15,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Draper, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion failed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 2, No = 3, Abstain = 0).
Yes: Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper
No: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Willard.

Motion: Award Eco Servants \$10,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 5).
Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

NM Bookmobile

\$ 1,260

Motion: Award New Mexico Bookmobile \$1,260, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 5).
Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Coalition of Arizona/NM Counties

\$ 7,600

Motion: Award Coalition of Arizona/NM Counties \$7600 for annual dues and legal fees, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Chair Stone, **Seconded by** Commissioner Draper.

Commissioner Stewart objected to expending an additional \$5000 for legal fees reminding Lincoln County was not directly involved in litigation at this time.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 4, No = 1, Abstain = 0).
Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.
No: Commissioner Stewart.

Boys & Girls Club of Sierra Blanca

\$ 10,000

Motion: Award Boys and Girls Club of Sierra Blanca \$10,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Allen, **Seconded by** Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 4, No = 1, Abstain = 0).
Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.
No: Commissioner Stewart.

Miracle's Paws for Pets

\$ 1,500

Motion: Award Miracle's Paws for Pets \$1,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Draper, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 4, No = 1, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

No: Commissioner Stewart.

City of Ruidoso Downs
 (Lincoln County Transit)

\$ 34,500

Motion: Award the City of Ruidoso Downs \$5,000 for Lincoln County Transit, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Draper, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion passed by roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 3, No = 2, Abstain = 0).

Yes: Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

No: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart.

White Mountain Search and Rescue

\$ 1,000

Motion: Award White Mountain Search and Rescue \$1,000 from the General Fund, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Willard, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

8. Next Regular Meeting

Regular Meeting - May 17, 2016

Motion: Reschedule the June 21, 2016 Regular Meeting to June 28, 2016, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

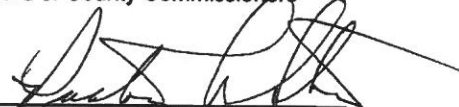
Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Chair Stone, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of County Commissioners, Chair Stone adjourned the meeting at 3:57:44 PM.

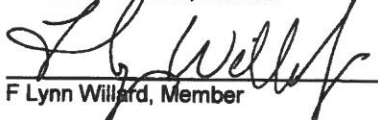
County of Lincoln
 Board of County Commissioners


 Preston Stone, Chair

Dallas Draper, Vice Chair


 Elaine Allen, Member


 Thomas F. Stewart, Member


 F. Lynn Willard, Member



ATTEST:


Rhonda Burrows, County Clerk

June 28, 2016
Date Approved